AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. – 17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for grouping food items by food product type in a grocery store, the method comprising:

receiving a store layout including existing food products from a requestor;

categorizing ~~each~~ said existing food products by food product type, resulting in at least two categories of a first food product type and a second food product type;

assigning shelf space to ~~each~~ said existing food products by food product type, wherein said assigning ~~includes~~ comprises:

placing ~~each~~ a first combination of packaging types of said existing food products on a first aisle of said grocery store, said first combination of packaging types comprising: dried, canned, and bulk food items of said first food product type ~~in close geographic proximity to another said existing product with the same type, wherein at least two of said existing products with the same type assigned in close geographic proximity have different storage unit temperature requirements~~; and

placing a second combination of packaging types of said existing food products on a second aisle of said grocery store, said second combination of packaging types comprising: dried, canned, and bulk food items of said second food product type, thereby enhancing grocery shopping experience by enabling customers to quickly locate said existing food products of said first and second food product types regardless of said packaging types;

updating said store layout responsive to said assigning; and

transmitting said store layout to said requestor in response to said updating.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein said first combination of packaging types further comprises one or more of: refrigerated, frozen, and heated food items of said first food product type; and further wherein said shelf space includes one or more of: a refrigeration unit, a room temperature unit, a freezer unit and a heating unit, to accommodate different temperature requirements for said first food product type on said first aisle of said grocery store.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein said method further comprises:

receiving a new food product;

categorizing said new food product by said food product type; and

assigning shelf space to said new food product, wherein said assigning shelf space to said new food product includes placing said new food product on one of said first and second aisles containing ~~in close geographic proximity to a~~ said existing food products with the same food product type.

21. (Currently Amended) A system for grouping food items by food product type in a grocery store, the system comprising:

a network;

a user system in communication with said network; and

a host system in communication with said network, said host system including layout application software to implement a method comprising:

receiving a store layout including existing food products from a requestor located on a user system, said receiving via said network;

categorizing ~~each~~ said existing food products by food product type, resulting in at least two categories of a first food product type and a second food product type;

assigning shelf space to ~~each~~ said existing food products by food product type, wherein said assigning ~~includes~~ comprises:

placing ~~each~~ a first combination of packaging types of said existing food products on a first aisle of said grocery store, said first combination of packaging types comprising: dried, canned, and bulk food items of said first food product type ~~in close geographic proximity to another said existing product with the same type, wherein at least two of said existing products with the same type assigned in close geographic proximity have different storage unit temperature requirements~~; and

placing a second combination of packaging types of said existing food products on a second aisle of said grocery store, said second combination of packaging types comprising: dried, canned, and bulk food items of said second food product type, thereby enhancing grocery shopping experience by enabling customers to quickly locate said existing food products of said first and second food product types regardless of said packaging types;

updating said store layout responsive to said assigning; and

transmitting said store layout via said network to said requestor in response to said updating.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 further comprising a storage device in communication with said network wherein said store layout is located on said storage device.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said network is the Internet.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said network in an intranet.

25. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said user system is located in the same geographic location as said host system.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein said user system and said host system communicate directly.

27. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said user system is located in a different geographic location than said host system.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for grouping food items by food product type in a grocery store, the computer program product comprising:

a storage medium readable by a processing circuit and storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit for performing a method comprising:

receiving a store layout including existing food products from a requestor;

categorizing ~~each~~ said existing food products by food product type, resulting in at least two categories of a first food product type and a second food product type;

assigning shelf space to ~~each~~ said existing food products by food product type, wherein said assigning ~~includes~~ comprises:

placing ~~each~~ a first combination of packaging types of said existing food products on a first aisle of said grocery store, said first combination of packaging types comprising: dried, canned, and bulk food items of said first food product type ~~in close geographic proximity to another said existing product with the same type, wherein at least two of said existing products with the same type assigned in close geographic proximity have different storage unit temperature requirements~~; and

placing a second combination of packaging types of said existing food products on a second aisle of said grocery store, said second combination of packaging types comprising: dried, canned, and bulk food items of said second food product type, thereby enhancing grocery shopping experience by enabling customers to quickly locate said existing food products of said first and second food product types regardless of said packaging types;

updating said store layout responsive to said assigning; and

transmitting said store layout to said requestor in response to said updating.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein said categorizing results in a third food product type, and said assigning places a combination of ethnic, organic, and baking food items of said third food product type on a common aisle of said grocery store~~the at least two of said existing products with the same type in close geographic proximity having different storage unit temperature requirements are assigned to a common aisle of the grocery store~~.

30. (New) A method for grouping food items in a grocery store, the method comprising:

arranging food items of a first food type on a first aisle of the grocery store by placing a first combination of packaging types on the first aisle of the grocery store, the first combination of packaging types comprising: dried, canned, and bulk food items of the first food type; and

arranging food items of a second food type on a second aisle of the grocery store by placing a second combination of packaging types on the second aisle of the grocery store, the second combination of packaging types comprising: dried, canned, and bulk food items of the second food type, thereby altering the grocery store layout and enhancing grocery shopping experience by enabling customers to quickly locate the food items of the first and second food types regardless of the packaging types.